

# MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Neither the statutes and regulations establishing the Office of the Inspector General of the District of Columbia (OIG), nor any since, have required the OIG to issue an annual report to the Congress, the Mayor, the City Council, or the D.C. Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority (the Authority), detailing the OIG's activities over the past fiscal year. (The OIG's fiscal year begins on October 1.) I believe, however, that the OIG should report on its activities, and among a set of proposed statutory changes I have submitted to Congress is one making such a report mandatory. This is the first such report, although not yet required by law.

When I began my service as Inspector General on January 14, 1998, I became the fourth person to hold that office – on an acting, interim or permanent basis – since the beginning of 1996. I took the job on a pro bono basis.

In the time I have been here, the OIG has grown from 35 full-time employees to its present complement of 60, and our original FY 98 budget of \$5.7 million was revised and increased to \$6.4 million. To supervise the Office, I hired a new Deputy Inspector General, a new General Counsel, and two new Assistant Inspectors General – all highly qualified individuals drawn from federal service with the CIA, the Justice Department, the Treasury Department, and the FBI. We sought and obtained new legislation authorizing our investigators to exercise certain law enforcement powers, including the authority to carry firearms.

Along with the additional staff, resources, and authority, the OIG took on new duties and redoubled its efforts with respect to its existing responsibilities. We created a new investigative unit – the Special Investigations Division – to probe allegations of corruption and mismanagement in the Metropolitan Police Department. We also

created a Procurement Fraud Unit to handle cases of contract fraud and the like. Meanwhile, the General Investigations Division continued its efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse throughout the City government. The Audit Division was extremely active in the past year and identified potential cost savings to the District of nearly double this Office's annual budget. The accomplishments of these Divisions are documented in the pages that follow.

Less tangible, but no less important, has been the change I have witnessed over the months I have been here in the attitude of those within this Office. The OIG's employees now approach their tasks with an energy and enthusiasm that was missing a year ago. And I believe it is also fair to say that others within the D.C. government have started to look at the OIG in a new way and now view it as an active and positive influence in the City.

At least one more significant change is in the works for this Office in the coming months. As I stated when I agreed to accept the job of Inspector General, I intend to step down and return to the private sector in the Spring of 1999 after I have served in office for 15 months. I truly believe, however, that little, if any, disruption in the operation of the OIG should accompany my departure.

This is not to say that our work will be done by the time of my departure. There are still changes to be made even in my remaining months – such as an expansion of our Medicaid Fraud Unit into a fully functioning part of the Office. We also need more personnel – both auditors and investigators – because we are having to turn down or put aside a number of very good cases because we are so fully engaged with the resources we have. But we are on our way. Everything is in place to make huge strides forward.

If I have accomplished anything in the past year, it has been to see to it that this Office is staffed by talented and dedicated professionals who have the tools they need to do their jobs and make this City better. I hope and expect that the day after I leave office will be no different than the day before. I am extremely proud of the people in this Office and what they have accomplished over the past year, and I

believe the residents of this City should be too.

***E. Barrett Prettyman, Jr.***

**November 24, 1998**

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